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ABSTRACT

This courseware evaluation rates the "FloorPlan" program developed by the Learning Seed. (The program--not included in this document--allows room design and arrangement to be performed on the computer screen.) The courseware was rated by a team of home economists participating in a network for the dissemination of courseware reviews. Part A describes "FloorPlan" in terms of topics (interior design, furniture arrangement, floor plans) and hardware requirements (Apple II and printer with Grappler interfacing), indicates its suitability for grades 7-adult, and lists accompanying materials (instruction booklet, object number card). Availability information includes cost ($39.00), policies, and contact address. Part B contains the evaluation criteria in eight categories; reviewer ratings appear as yes, somewhat, no, and not applicable, with explanatory comments. Part C summarizes the evaluation in terms of strengths (allows creativity and basic skills integration, is practical) and weaknesses (slow and difficult to work with, weak documentation). Summary ratings in the eight categories include subject matter, student interaction, and work behaviors--yes; technical presentation, program interaciton, and documentation--somewhat; and student evaluation and application programs--not applicable. The program is recommended for teaching basic interior design, following directions, mapping, and measuring. (SK)

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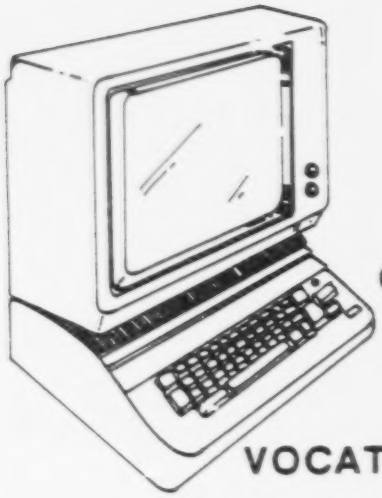

FLOORPLAN

COURSEWARE EVALUATION FOR VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The evaluation of this courseware program was conducted by a team participating in the Courseware Evaluation Network. The Network, established in 1985, is coordinated by the National Center for Research in Vocational Education under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education. The purpose of the Network is to identify and evaluate microcomputer courseware, and to disseminate courseware reviews for vocational and technical education.

Each Network team includes three members, at least one of which is, or recently has been, a vocational or technical teacher in the subject matter area of the courseware being evaluated. The evaluation represents a synthesis of the opinions of the team members. It is suggested that the evaluation be used as a first screening device for courseware and that the teacher also evaluate the courseware program on the basis of specific student needs.

The Courseware Evaluation: Form and Guide used for all of the Network evaluations was developed by the National Center and is available through its cost-recovery system.

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COURSEWARE EVALUATION FORM

NOTE. If you are using this form for the first time, read the instructions in the accompanying Microcomputer Courseware Evaluation Guide.

Evaluator Vila M. Rosenfeld, Leila G. Halsey, Renny M. Cannon

Position Coordinator, Associate Professor, Lecturer

Date March 6, 1986

Part A: Courseware Description

In the following sections, record descriptive information about the courseware that you are evaluating.

I. IDENTIFICATION

Program Title FloorPlan Date 1984

Series Title

Vocational Area(s) Home Economics

Subject Area(s) Interior Design, Housing

Topic(s) Floor Plans, Furniture Arrangement, Traffic Patterns

Developing Agency The Learning Seed

Street or P.O. Box 21250 North Andover Road

City Kildeer, State IL Zip 60047 Phone (312) 438-3251

Author(s) Jeffrey Schrank

Programmer(s) Mark Whitehurst

II. HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

Microcomputer* Apple II, IIe
(brand/model)

K Memory Required 64K
(number)

Medium of Transfer (include number of each):

- __ Tape cassette
- __ ROM cartridge
- __ 5¼" Flexible disk
- __ 8" Flexible disk
- __ Other _____ (specify)

Programming Language _____ DOS Specifications 3.3

Other Specifications Printer with Grappler Interfacing.

Peripherals Needed (check all that apply):

- __ Color monitor
- X One disk drive
- __ Two disk drives
- __ Plotter
- __ Game paddle(s)
- __ Joystick(s)
- __ Modem
- __ Mouse
- X Printer
- __ Graphics tablet
- __ Light pen
- __ Voice/sound instrument
- __ Clock
- __ Video disk
- __ Touch screen
- __ Ten-key number pad
- __ Other _____ (specify)

*NOTE: Provide the above information for any additional hardware on which this program can be used. _____

Part A: Courseware Description

III. PROGRAM FEATURES (check all that apply):

__ Network version provided
__ Multiple copies required
__ Program can be modified
X Program protected
__ Data disk needed
__ Field-test data available

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING

Program mode (check all that apply):

__ Application
__ Drill and practice
__ Educational gaming
X Simulation
__ Tutorial
__ Other _____ (specify)

Student Target Population (check all that apply):

X Regular
__ Disadvantaged
__ Handicapped
__ Limited English
__ Bilingual
__ Gifted

Grade Level (check all that apply):

__ K-6
X 7-8
X 9-10
X 11-12
X 13-14
X Adult
__ Higher Education

Instructional Grouping (check all that apply):

X Individual
X Small group (up to 4)
__ Large group (4 or more)
__ competitive interaction
X cooperative interaction

Prerequisite Student Skills (specify) _____

Accompanying Materials (specify types):

Documentation Instruction Booklet

Student support materials Object Number Card

Teacher support materials Limited description of ways to use program

Correlated materials _____

Estimated Time for Use Varies with program and previous use.

V. AVAILABILITY

__ Free _____ (copies)

__ Loan _____ (time)

__ Duplication (requestor supplies disk)

X Sale $ 39.00; $47.00 with Back-up.

__ Rent $ _____ _____ (time)

Copyright Restrictions (explain) Copyright 1985 The Learning Seed

Back-up Policy (explain) $8.00 prepaid with original purchase order or reasonable proof of purchase.

Preview Policy (explain) _____

Update Policy (explain) _____

Contact The Learning Seed

Street or P.O. Box 21250 North Andover Road

City Kildeer, State IL Zip 60042 Phone (312) 438-3251

Part B: Courseware Evaluation Criteria

Indicate the applicability of each section to the courseware being evaluated by checking either "___ A" (applicable) or "___ N/A" (not applicable). If a section is not applicable, proceed to the next section. If a section is applicable, check the column that indicates how well the courseware meets each criterion. Include any comments.

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
I. SUBJECT MATTER _x A ___ N/A					
1. Subject matter has educational value.	x				
2. Student objectives are stated.			x		
3. Subject matter is accurate.	x				
4. Subject matter is logically presented.	x				
5. Subject matter is free of race, ethnic, sex, and other stereotypes.	x				
6. Subject matter is on the level of the students.	x				
7. Information and skills presented are comparable to those used in the home, business, or industry.	x				
8. Subject matter motivates students to learn.		x			
9. Subject matter is reviewed and summarized.				x	
10. Program utilizes the unique capabilities of the microcomputer to present the subject matter.	x				
II. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION _x A ___ N/A					
1. Program is free of technical problems.		x			
2. Presentation rate is adequate to maintain interest.		x			
3. Information on the screen is easy to read.	x				
4. Program is free of spelling and grammatical errors.	x				
5. Program instructions are easy to follow.		x			May be confusing to students
6. Color increases the instructional value of the program.				x	
7. Audio increases the instructional value of the program.				x	
8. Graphics increase the instructional value of the program.	x				

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
III. STUDENT INTERACTION X A ___ N/A					
1. Students can use the program with minimal assistance.		x			
2. Students are actively involved in the program.	x				
3. Students control the pace of the program.	x				
4. Students can access the program "menu(s)" to change activities.	x				
5. Students are permitted to change answers.	x				
6. Methods of responding correspond to the level of the program.	x				
7. Students' errors of entry are processed so that the program continues to run.	x				
8. Students can access available "help" and "hint" options at any time.			x		
9. Students can enter or exit the program as desired.			x		
10. Students control the sequence of the program.	x				
IV. PROGRAM INTERACTION ___ A X N/A					
1. Feedback is immediate.					
2. Cues and prompts are provided to assist students in answering correctly.					
3. Feedback reinforces the correct responses.					
4. Feedback is nonthreatening.					
5. Program helps students understand wrong answers.					
6. Program gives the correct answer after a reasonable number of tries.					
7. Positive reinforcement is varied.					
8. Program has the ability to branch/loop depending upon students' performance.					
9. Feedback is on the level of the student.					
V. STUDENT EVALUATION ___ A X N/A					
1. Evaluation provides a means for measuring attainment of objectives.					
2. Program reports which items were missed and which were correct.					

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
V. STUDENT EVALUATION—*Continued*					
3. Individual student performance results are available to the teacher.					
4. Class performance results are available to the teacher.					
5. Program provides for printed copies of evaluations.					
6. Test item formats are suited to the material being tested.					
7. Test items are clearly stated.					
8. Test item bank is provided.					
VI. DOCUMENTATION _x_ A ___ N/A					
1. Documentation is easy to understand.	x				
2. Documentation is accurate.	x				
3. Student objectives are stated.			x		
4. Underlying concepts are outlined.		x			
5. Skills to be developed are specified.		x			
6. Procedures for integrating the program into the curriculum are provided.		x			
7. Follow-up activities are suggested.			x		
8. Documentation explains the intended use of support materials.	x				
9. Sufficient information is provided to operate the program.	x				
VII. WORK BEHAVIORS _x_ A ___ N/A					
1. Program helps students identify their vocational skills.		x			
2. Program promotes pride in work.	x				
3. Program promotes productivity.	x				
4. Program encourages good work habits.	x				
5. Problem solving is encouraged.	x				
6. Program promotes good human relations skills.				x	
7. Program provides an opportunity for work satisfaction and self-fulfillment.	x				
8. Program encourages creativity.	x				

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
VIII. APPLICATION PROGRAMS ___ A _X_ N/A (to be completed for application programs only)					
1. Program is adaptable to the needs of the student.					
2. Commands are easily remembered.					
3. Information is easily manipulated.					
4. Corrections are easy to make.					
5. Program includes all necessary variables.					
6. Program performs reliably.					
7. Program efficiently achieves its intended purpose.					
8. Trial data are supplied for learning to run the program.					
9. Program provides for use of printer when hard copy of information is advantageous.					
10. Program moves from operation to operation efficiently.					
11. Program is compatible with other application programs.					
12. Program has a supplementary tutorial program available.					

Part C: Courseware Evaluation Summary

1. SUMMARY COMMENTS

Identify strengths of the courseware: It allows for creativity and it is fun. It also is practical in that it allows students to practice skills they can actually use in home and classroom. It will save much classroom and practice time. Allows for integration of basic content skills (i.e. measurement).

Identify weaknesses of the courseware: The documentation for classroom use is weak. Program difficult to work with, slow. Can not exit the program if mistake is made.

Describe uses of the courseware in an instructional setting: Teach basic interior design as it relates to room arrangements, illustrates errors and problems in furniture placement, traffic flow. For use with young students to teach following directions, mapping, and measuring.

2. SUMMARY OF SECTION

Rate the quality of the courseware for each applicable section of this form by checking the appropriate column: if not applicable, check N/A.

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A
I. SUBJECT MATTER: Content has educational value.	x			
II. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION: Program is free of malfunctions.		x		
III. STUDENT INTERACTION: Students are actively involved with the program.	x			
IV. PROGRAM INTERACTION: Feedback is effectively employed.		x		
V. STUDENT EVALUATION: Evaluation adequately measures student progress.				x
VI. DOCUMENTATION: Documentation is sufficient to run the program.		x		
VII. WORK BEHAVIORS: Program assists students in developing positive work attitudes and skills.	x			
VIII. APPLICATION PROGRAMS: Program performs the task for which it is intended.				x

3. FINAL RECOMMENDATION

Check your recommendation for the courseware and explain your reasons below.

___ Highly recommend
_x_ Recommend
___ Recommend with reservations
___ Do not recommend

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Microcomputer Courseware Evaluation Guide: Form and Guide
for Vocational and Technical Education

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